

Amendments to the Specification

Please replace the paragraph on page 8, lines 4-26 with the following amended paragraph:

FIG. 3 illustrates an example of halftone output 50, 52, 54, and 56 generated by the threshold matrices M_C , M_M , M_Y , M_K 18a, b, c, d in accordance with the preferred embodiments. The values in the threshold matrices 18a, b, c, d are generated to produce the desired halftone output 50, 52, 54, and 56 shown in FIG. 3 in a manner known in the art. The threshold matrices may be tuned for each color component in a manner known in the art. Thus, the dimensions of the threshold matrices and the intensity values contained therein may differ for each color component. Further, the (C, M, and Y) halftone output 50, 52, and 54 shown in FIG. 3 is produced at angles in a manner known in the art and all have the same lines per inch (LPI) or screen frequency. However, the halftone output for K (black) 56 has a greater LPI than the other three halftone outputs 50, 52, 54, such as at a ratio of 3:2 or 4:2 LPIs, or some integer multiple of the other LPIs. The halftone output for K (black) 56 is generated to include the same LPI and 45 degree angle as the black (K) threshold output shown in FIG. 1a plus added output to increase the LPI of the threshold matrix for K to a desired ratio, e.g., 3:2, 4:2, etc., with respect to the other halftone outputs (C, M, and Y). In the example of FIG. 3, the K threshold matrix [[18d]] 56 generates three black dots between two vertically consecutive black dots shown in FIG. 1b to form solid vertical columns of dots with one column of white dots therebetween. In alternative embodiments, the LPI of the halftone output generated by any one of the threshold matrices M_C , M_M , M_Y , M_K is at least approximately 20% greater than the halftone output generated by the other three threshold matrices. The angles at which the halftone output is rotated may be determined in an appropriate manner known in the art.